

NEWS AND NOTES

What's New in Polynesia

• Hawai'i. The Archaeological Research Facility (ARF), University of California, Berkeley, is joining with Hawai'i State Parks, Kaua'i Community College, the Koke'e Natural History Museum and Kaua'i West Main Street Organization to investigate the Russian Fort Elisabeth on the island of Kaua'i. Under the direction of Kent G. Lightfoot and Patrick V. Kirch, the field school ran for five weeks in June and July. The fieldwork is planned to continue in summer of this year.

Fort Elisabeth is now a state historical park. The surface remains are impressive: stone walls of the fort, built in 1816, are clearly visible. Last year's efforts were focused on the exterior parts of the fort and an underwater survey. The second stage of fieldwork will focus on the fort's interior. The Russian-American company was at the fort for only two years but after that, Hawaiians used the fort for nearly fifty years. The majority of the cultural material is expected to reflect how the site was used after the Russian-American Company left.

• Rarotonga. A cultural exchange program between the Maori people of the Cook Islands and Aotearoa took place in November 1993. A workshop, the continuation of similar program held in New Zealand in 1991, traced and recorded the historical voyages of the ancient canoes that departed from Avarua Harbor (Rarotonga) some 700 years ago. A special ceremony was held at the canoe departure site, with the unveiling of seven stones with plaques; each stone represents a legendary canoe. [*Pacific News Bulletin* 8(11)].

• Pitcairn. *The Pitcairn Miscellany* (Vol.36, No. 10 for October) reports a spectacular hail storm which lasted for ten minutes, covering the ground with hailstones up to 15 cm deep. The hailstones came in assorted sizes from blocks to star-shapes, to the usual round balls--some measuring six centimeters in size. The hail was accompanied by tremendous thunder, lighting and then followed by a downpour. All this prompted islanders to discover a new use for crash helmets. Rumor has it that some hail fell back in 1938 and a few small hailstones were reported in 1991.

POLYNESIAN LITERARY COMPETITION, 1994 SAMOA

The annual Polynesian Literary Competition offers cash awards for Polynesian-language writers in order to promote and encourage literary study and creativity in a Polynesian language. The award area for 1994 is Samoa (Western Samoa, American Samoa, emigré).

Adjudicators for the 1994 Competition are: Professor Albert Wendt, of the University of Auckland, the well-known Samoan author and educator; Professor Even Hovdhaugen, of the University of Oslo, Norway; and Dr Ulrike Mosel, of the Australian National University.

Permanent moderators for the Polynesian Literary Competition are: Dr H.G.A. Hughes, of Wales; and Dr Steven Roger Fischer, of Germany.

Entries are invited in either or both of the sections:

- 1) traditional song or poem in the Samoan language, with translation in English and explanatory notes, not to exceed 6 double-spaced typewritten pages;
- 2) modern original poem or short story in the Samoan language, with translation in English, not to exceed 12 double-spaced typewritten pages.

A certificate of award and a cash prize of US \$250 will be given to the winner of each section.

Eligibility: Entrants must be native-born Samoan or of Samoan parentage. Residence in either Western Samoa or American Samoa is not required. Open to all ages.

Enclose with your double-spaced typewritten submission your full name, address, and age. (Since submissions will not be returned, please keep a copy). Post your submission by air mail, postmarked no later than 1 May 1994 to:

Dr Steven Roger Fischer
Droste-Hülshoff-Weg 1
88709 Meersburg, Germany

What's New in Hangarao

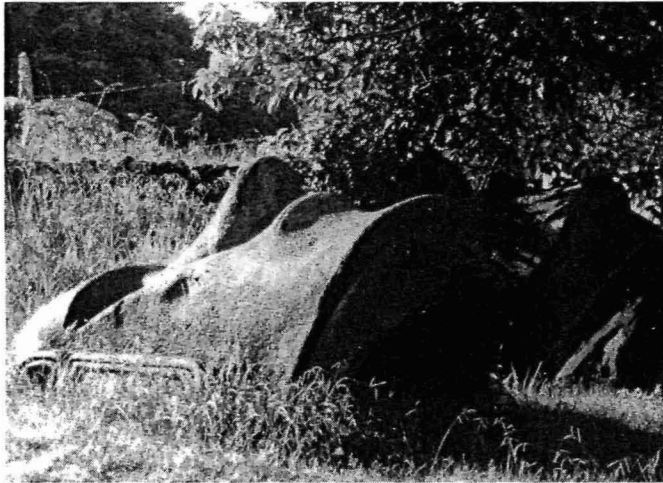
• In our last issue, *RNJ* 7(4):90, we reported that a supply ship was headed for the island with livestock--including 250 goats. When the ship and its cargo arrived to the island, officials of SAG and SASIPA were staggered--for no one had bothered to tell them that goats were included in the cargo. They put them in quarantine while they decided what to do. And then decided to slaughter them, "...principally for sanitary motifs and secondarily for the necessity of conservation of the soil and the island ecosystem." According to *El Mercurio de Valparaiso* (for December 24), goats are responsible for considerable damage to the ecology of the Juan Fernandez Islands and they wish to avoid the same sort of depredations on Rapa Nui.

But this story has another angle: the goats were purchased by an islander with funding from a government self-help program, in order to upgrade a herd already on the island; the same program funded travel to the continent to study methods of raising and caring for goat herds. The prohibition was issued after the goats were already en route to the island.

The last word is that islanders won't eat the goat meat as they are unused to the taste.

- There are now 1200 automobiles on the island and 60 more are expected on the next supply ship. This number does not include motorcycles. Traffic jams now are common in town where streets are not designed for such heavy traffic. It is estimated that there is one vehicle for every two islanders.

- We hear that more than half the island population is now from mainland Chile. Many new stores have sprouted, lining the main streets with shops. Stores are stocking such items as frozen chickens, frozen vegetables, and TV dinners from Santiago. There is even a Pollo Loco on the main street.



Two statue heads left-over from the movie lie in a garden in Hangaroa.

- A Rapanui language day, sponsored by the Island's teachers, is held every November. This celebration of language and culture includes coverage by the local TV and a literary and poetry contest.

- Nicholas Haoa Cardinale hopes to initiate a Public Broadcast Station on the island. Programming would be 70% related to Pacific news, Rapa Nui news, and music from the Pacific Islands. Nico now has the land and a structure for the station but needs equipment and technical support. He also wishes to become involved in networking. He is willing to exchange room and board for assistance. Anyone interested in this project, contact: Nicholas Haoa, P.O.Box 022, Isla de Pascua, Chile. His Fax number is 56-2-223-482.

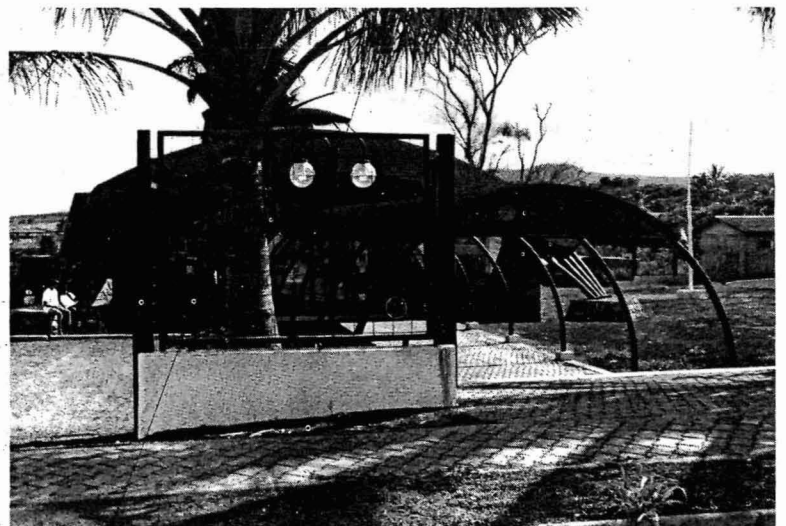
- Heavy rains caused more houses at Orongo to collapse, bringing the number to around nine or ten. However, CONAF (National Parks of Chile) has only enough funds to repair one of them.

Recently, CONAF repaired a collapsed *hare moa* at Tahai as well as damage to *ahu Vai Ure*. The restoration was done by islander Raphael Rapu. CONAF has built some *manavai* for native plants on their land near the CONAF office where they also have a laboratory to introduce plants.

- Dr. Max E. Stanton and wife, Margaret Stanton, are currently conducting a socio-economic survey of Rapa Nui. The focus is the social impact of tourism as well as the impact of the film production, "Rapa Nui," on the island. The Stantons are working in conjunction with Sergio Rapu, Director of the Institute of Polynesian Studies at Brigham Young University--Hawai'i and Administrative Research Associate of the Polynesian Cultural Center in Hawai'i, and Professor José Antonio Cousiño of the Universidad de Chile in Santiago. Dr. Stanton teaches anthropology and sociology at Brigham Young University--Hawai'i.

- A recent exchange program saw 29 Rapanui students traveling to Tahiti for one month. They were escorted by a Spanish-speaking Tahitian teacher and attended schools in Tahiti for part of the time, and then spent the rest of their visit sightseeing. Those students participating have been studying French in the local Hangaroa school.

- The movie clean-up has erased most of the debris left behind. Three different Rapanui were paid to remove debris from the various locations used in filming. They were provided with a schedule and instructions by CONAF, and sites were inspected prior to payment. The plastic statues were buried on the island, in the island's garbage dump, which seems to be reaching critical proportions. A few statue heads can be seen lying



A new futuristic bank building--somewhat resembling a giant arachnid--has replaced the old bank.

around the village; these apparently will be used for garden decorations. The cement foundations for the ramp at Rano Raraku were left in place but covered over with dirt as it was feared that digging them out would cause more damage than leaving them.



Islanders wearing body paint pull one of the parade floats for Tapati Rapa Nui festival. Each float carried a queen candidate—in this case, the float represented a giant turtle. (Photo: Fred Richardson)

- The annual Tapati Rapa Nui festival was in full swing this year. Week-long festivities included dance and song contests, statuette carving and body painting contests, various sporting events (including a horse race), an agricultural contest, a parade of "traditional boats," and a grand festival parade complete with floats. The queen this year is Marama Tuki Araki who won two round trip tickets to Tahiti, a TV set and other items of value.

- Mónica Bahamondez P. and Maria Eugenia van de Maele of the Centro Nacional de Conservación y Restauración, Santiago, recently made repairs to several moai in the quarry that were damaged during the filming of the movie.

- Another red scoria sculpture has appeared at the airport, joining the double birdman figure and two small moai which greet incoming tourists. This newest addition is a handsome bird figure.

- Two cruise ships arrived to the island in February: the *Odessa* with 490 passengers and 350 crew; and the *Royal Viking Sun* with 450 passengers and 450 crew. Arriving on different days, the ships stayed only a few hectic hours.

- In an effort to cut down on litter, the Intendencia of the Vth Region has begun a year-long campaign to raise islander awareness of the problems of the environment

and ecology. A master plan created by Marcel Szanto Narea, a Chilean international consultant, grew out of a year-long study titled "Capacitación y manejo integral de la basura en Isla de Pascua" (1993). The campaign includes posters and other messages regarding recycling, fly control, protection of the flora and fauna, and garbage disposal.

- Two Rapanui language programs are being implemented for the local school. One encompasses Rapanui for native speakers and Rapanui as a second language. The teachers involved are Francisco Edmunds Paoa, M. Virginia Haoa Cardinali, Catalina Hey Paoa, M. Candelaria Hilaria Tuki Pakarati, Nancy Thiesen A. de Weber, and Roberto Weber Ch. The second program involves four separate manuals (according to grade level) to assist with teaching the oral language, with stress on comprehension and expression.

- A modern house has been constructed on top of an *ahu* and directly next to the red scoria statue known as Moai A Mata Mea which stands close to the museum, just north of Tahai. The land upon which the *ahu* and statue are located is in private hands. The Rapanui name for the planet Mars is Matamea (red or evil eye). Thus the name of the *ahu* could be "the moai belonging to the planet Mars" or "the moai with red eyes" (Liller 1994:23). The statue and the *ahu* were first noted by Heyerdahl (1961:464) who states, "One complete statue, about 2.5 m. long, lay face down and partly buried in the ground. . . ." "The site. . . was an artificially elevated earthen terrace with coarse masonry retaining walls, and a row of large, irregularly eroded blocks set on end projected above one side of the terrace as if it were a crude section of a raised *marae* wall." Unfortunately, the Heyerdahl expedition lacked time to study this interesting site although they did re-erect the statue.

Heyerdahl, Thor. 1961. Surface Artifacts. In *Reports of the Norwegian Archaeological Expedition to Easter Island and the East Pacific*, Vol.1. Monographs of the School of American Research and the Museum of New Mexico, 24 (1).

Liller, William. 1994. *The Ancient Solar Observatories of Rapa Nui: The Archaeoastronomy of Easter Island*. Easter Island Foundation, Woodland, CA.

- Kelli A. McCormick, of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Johns Hopkins University, spent the month of October 1993 on Rapa Nui collecting samples of the entire spectrum of volcanic rock types (excluding pyroclastic deposits) that are on the island. These rocks include basalts and hawaiites, intermediate rock compositions such as benmoreites and highly evolved or differentiated rocks such as the trachytes and rhyolites. The purpose of the study is to determine what igneous